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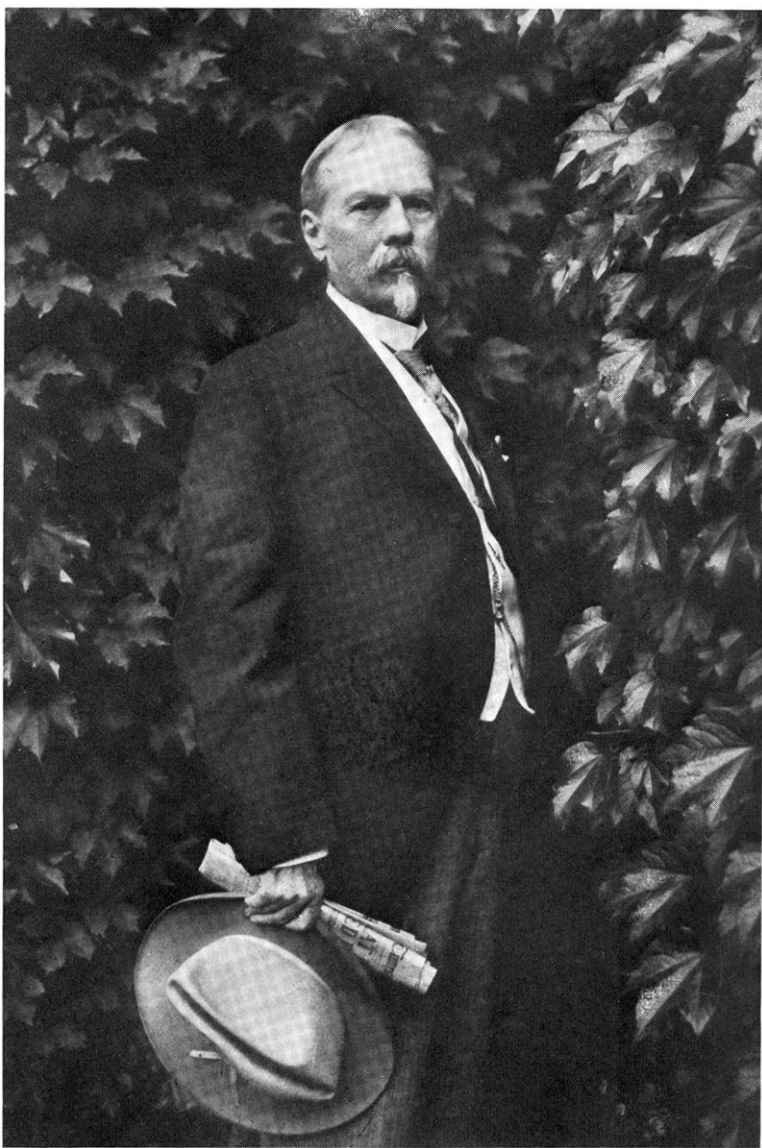
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MAJOR SAMUEL GRIFFIN.

Major Samuel Griffin, the oldest member of the Bedford Bar, and one of Virginia's most courtly and distinguished citizens, died at his home in Bedford on May 16th, 1917.

Major Griffin was the son of Dr. John H. Griffin, a prominent physician of Roanoke County, and was born at Salem, on June 25, 1840. He was educated at Roanoke College and at Kenyon College, Ohio, from the latter of which Institutions he received, in 1860, the degree of Master of Arts. After graduation he taught for a short while at Shelby College, Kentucky, but immediately upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he returned home and enlisted for duty in the Salem Light Artillery. After the evacuation of Norfolk he was transferred to the Second Virginia Cavalry, under Colonel Thomas T. Munford. His record of service, honorably performed, includes Sharpsburg, fights in the Valley, seven days around Richmond, Brandy Station, Second Manassas, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Trevillians and others. In 1864, he was, for conspicuous gallantry, recommended for promotion to the rank of Captain, by Colonel Munford, General Wickham and General Fitzhugh Lee with the approval of General Robert E. Lee. In this connection Colonel Munford wrote: "At Gooch's Farm I saw him ride out alone and discharge his pistol six times into the Yankee column at a distance of sixty yards. The same day he led an attack, with two other men, supported by a detachment from my regiment, and by his dash and gallantry made some thirty men of Battery M., 2 U. S. Artillery surrender to him, with their arms and caissons before support arrived." During the fight around Richmond, he captured the Colonel of the Fourth New York Infantry and three other officers. He was wounded at Shepherdstown.

In a recent letter Colonel Munford declares: "In my four years experience as Colonel of a regiment, commanding first one



MAJOR SAMUEL GRIFFIN

and then another brigade and division, I never saw his superior in all qualifications in any position he was called upon to fill."

After Appomattox, he read law under Judge G. A. Wingfield, in Bedford, (then Liberty), being admitted to the bar in 1867. He practiced his profession with distinction in Bedford, where he was the partner of Honorable H. C. Lowry. He often spoke with pleasure, of the old days when the lawyers rode in sociable cavalcades to the surrounding courts of Franklin, Botetourt, and other counties.

In 1876 he made his first appearance before the Supreme Court of the United States, when only thirty-six years of age.

He served in the State legislature in 1880-81 as the representative from Bedford. In 1886 he was nominated by the Democratic party for Congress to succeed John W. Daniel who had been chosen Senator, but failed of election on account of the over confidence of his friends. Afterwards he chose to follow his profession and never again was a candidate for office.

In the early days of the City of Roanoke, he established an office with Honorable Allen Watts as his partner, and maintained offices in that city until the time of his death. For nearly thirty years he was Local Counsel for the Norfolk and Western Railway, for the counties of Bedford and Botetourt.

In 1914 he was honored by being elected President of the Virginia State Bar Association.

He was a regular attendant at the meetings of the American Bar Association, and for many years served as a member of the Executive Committee of that Association.

For his old comrades in arms Major Griffin ever entertained the greatest love and solicitude, and devoted much of his time and talent to ministering to their comfort and happiness. He was commander of the Joseph E. Johnston Camp of Bedford county from its organization until his death. At State and National Reunions he was a prominent figure, and was an Ex-commander of the Virginia Division of United Confederate Veterans. In the National organizations of veterans he held the rank of Brigadier General, conferred when he was chosen Commander of the Virginia Division.

Major Griffin was a life long member of the Episcopal Church, and was a Christian gentleman in all that the term implies.

On November 11th, 1873 he was united in marriage to Miss Nannie Roy Hutter of "Poplar Forest," Bedford county, and he is survived by his wife. To this union there were born eight children of whom six are now living, as follows: Colonel F. Wharton Griffin of the U. S. Army, Mrs. Stannard Humphreys, Mr. Malcolm Griffin, and Miss Nannie Griffin, of Bedford, Mrs. C. S. Adams of Lynchburg, and Mrs. W. C. Cheney of South Manchester, Conn.

True in all his relationships and honorable and dignified in all his dealings, he has gone to his reward with the love and respect of all who truly knew him.

Where questions of right were concerned his heart was fearless, and to the end of his long career he wore the "White flower of a pure life."

W. BRUCE BUFORD.

Roanoke, Virginia.